

## In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A burial container for containing a body comprising:

a container body defining an enclosure and an upper opening through which a body may be placed into ~~the enclosure~~; the enclosure; and

5 ~~a lower panel having an opening formed therein to permit communication of earth into the enclosure~~ with the interior of the enclosure;

the opening sized such that the body will be in substantially direct contact with the earth when the body is placed in the enclosure;

2. (Previously Presented) The burial container of claim 1 further comprising a removable lid for the upper opening.

3. (Previously Presented) The burial container of claim 2 wherein the lid is provided with a lifting eye.

4. (Previously Presented) The burial container of claim 3 wherein the lifting eye is formed of stainless steel.

5. (Previously Presented) The burial container of claim 1 wherein the container body is made of concrete.

6. (Previously Presented) The burial container of claim 5 wherein the container body includes reinforcing steel.

7. (Currently Amended) A burial container for burying a body comprising:

a container body having four side panels that define an enclosure and a top opening;

5 a lower panel affixed to the four side panels and having a central opening therein as a bottom thereof to permit communication of earth ~~into the enclosure~~; and with the interior of the enclosure, such that the body will be in substantially direct contact with the earth when the body is placed in the

## AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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enclosure and at the time of such placement; and  
a removable lid for closing the top opening.

8. (Previously Presented) The burial container of claim 7 wherein the container body and lid are fashioned of steel reinforced concrete.

9. (Previously Presented) The burial container of claim 7 further comprising a plurality of rust-resistant lifting eyes secured to the lid to permit lifting of the lid from the container body.

10. (Previously Presented) The burial container of claim 7 further comprising a peripheral lip on the lid for engagement of the top opening when the lid is placed on the container body.

11. (Previously Presented) The burial container of claim 7 further comprising an indentation in the lid for reduction of weight.

12. (Previously Presented) The burial container of claim 7 wherein the lower panel provides a shelf surrounding the central opening.

Claims 13-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A burial container for burying a body comprising:  
a container body having four side panels that define an enclosure and a top opening;  
a lower panel affixed to the four side panels and having an opening therein that is shaped and sized to permit direct communication between a body in the enclosure and earth beneath the  
5 container body[[]], such that the body will be in substantially direct contact with the earth when the body is placed in the enclosure;

22. (Previously Presented) The burial container of claim 21 further comprising a removable lid for closing the top opening.

23. (Previously Presented) The burial container of claim 22 wherein the container body and lid are fashioned of steel reinforced concrete.

24. (Previously Presented) The burial container of claim 22 further comprising a plurality of rust-resistant lifting eyes secured to the lid to permit lifting of the lid from the container body.

25. (Previously Presented) The burial container of claim 22 further comprising a peripheral lip on the lid for engagement of the top opening when the lid is placed on the container body.

26. (Previously Presented) The burial container of claim 22 further comprising an indentation in the lid for reduction of weight.